

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-34 are pending. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. As a preliminary matter, applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 21-25, 27 and 29-34. Applicant notes that claim 21 stands allowed, as indicated under the heading entitled "Allowable Subject Matter" on page 6, paragraphs 5-6, and because claims 22-34 are also allowed (except for withdrawn claims 26, 28), which depend directly or indirectly from claim 21. Thus, the body of the Office Action is consistent with regard to the allowed claims.

However, in the Summary Sheet under the heading "Disposition of Claims," box 5 and 6, claim 21 appears to be both allowed and rejected. Applicant assumes that the text of box 6 has a typographical error and should read that claims "1, 3, 4, 6-16 and 18-20" are rejected, rather than claims ... 18-21 are rejected.

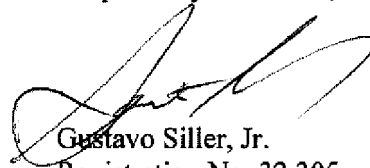
1. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-16 and 18-20 stand rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mitsui (5,408,345) in view of Kobashi (6,837,107). These claims have been cancelled in the subject amendment.

2. Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. The examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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